

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A housing member for housing an elongate material, the housing member ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

5 a base, said base having an opening extending along a longitudinal direction of the housing member and a plurality of convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along said longitudinal direction, each of the convex portions extending along a circumferential direction of said base; and

10 a cover for covering the opening of said base, said cover comprising a plurality of convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along said longitudinal direction, each of the convex portions of the cover extending along a circumferential direction of the cover, the arranged pitch of the convex portions of said base and the arranged pitch of the convex portions of said cover being the same or having a relationship of an integral multiple, and wherein, when said cover is assembled to said base, the convex portions of said cover and the convex portions of said base are fitted to each other so as to be overlaid on each other, and one of width of the convex portion of said cover and width of
15 the convex portion of said base is wider than the other one with respect to a longitudinal direction of the housing member.

2. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said cover is fitted onto an outer side of said base.

3. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ wherein the fitted portions are provided at both ends of each of the convex portions of said base, fitting portions are provided at both ends of each of the convex portions of said cover, and each of the fitting portions of said cover is fitted on the corresponding
5 fitted portion of said base.

4. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a locking projection is provided at an inner side of said each of the fitting portions, and a locked projection capable of being locked at the locking projection of the corresponding fitting portion is provided at an outer side of said each of the fitted
5 portions.

5. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an abutting step portion is formed at a border portion of said each of the fitted portions and the convex portion continuing to said each of the fitted portions, and when said cover covers said base, an end surface of said each of the fitting portions abuts the
5 corresponding abutting step portion.

6. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a cross-sectional shape of said each of the fitted portions is smaller than a cross-sectional shape of the corresponding convex portion.

7. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 [[to 6]],~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an approximately U-shaped reinforcement tool is disposed in at least one of an inner concave portion which is formed inside each of the convex

portions of said base and an outer concave portion which is formed between a pair of
5 adjacent convex portions of said cover.

8. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said reinforcement tools are placed respectively in both of each of the inner
concave portions of said base and each of the outer concave portions of said cover.

9. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 [[to 8]],
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the convex portions of said cover and the convex portions
of said base are fitted to each other so as to prevent said cover from being displaced along
the longitudinal direction of the housing member with respect to said base.

10. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 1 [[or 2]], ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ wherein in a portion at which the convex portion of said cover and the convex
portion of said base are overlaid on each other, restraining means ~~which restrains~~ for
restraining said cover from being detached from said base is provided between the
5 convex portion of said cover and convex portion of said base.

11. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said cover and said base each comprise a pair of side walls opposed to each other
along the longitudinal direction of the cover and the base, and said restraining means
includes a bulged base portion which is formed by bulging the side wall of said base
5 outward, and a cover bulged portion which is formed by bulging the side wall of said
cover outward to be capable of being fitted on the bulged base portion.

Preliminary Amendment

12. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to ~~any one of claim~~ 1 ~~[[to~~
11]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongate material is a cable which is laid inside a
building.

13. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to ~~any one of claim~~ 1 ~~[[~~ 1 ~~[[to~~
11]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said elongate material is a fluid pipe which is laid
indoors or outdoors and allows a flow of a fluid.

14. (Currently Amended) The housing member according to ~~any one of claim 1 to claim 13,~~
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said base is fixed to a structure constructed in a building.

15. (Currently Amended) A housing member for housing an elongate material, ~~characterized~~
~~in that~~ said housing member ~~is formed by dividing~~ comprising a cylindrical molded
product made of a resin, ~~which~~ wherein the cylindrical molded product has annular
convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the
5 housing member, and has been divided into a base and a cover along said longitudinal
direction, the base and the cover each have semi-annular convex portions arranged at the
said pitches along the longitudinal direction of the housing member, one of width of the
semi-annular convex portions of the cover and width of the semi-annular convex portions
of the base is wider than the other one with respect to the longitudinal direction of the
10 housing member, and the cover is assembled to the base so as to cover an opening of the
base, and when the cover is assembled to the base, the convex portions of the cover and
the convex portions of the base are fitted to each other so as to be overlaid on each other.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing method of the housing member for housing an elongate material ~~according to any one of claims 1 to 14~~, the method is ~~characterized by including~~ comprising:

5 ~~the step of preparing~~ molding a cylindrical intermediate ~~molded~~ product ~~made of~~ resin and including annular convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction thereof ~~which is formed by and~~ integrally molding ~~said~~ a base and ~~said~~ a cover with a portion to be cut off therebetween; and

10 ~~the step of dividing~~ said intermediate molded product along its longitudinal direction by cutting said portion to be cut off and obtaining said base and said cover which are separated from each other.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~manufacturing~~ method according to claim 16, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said portion to be cut off of said intermediate molded product has a convex portion which is connected to the convex portions of said base and cover and has a smaller cross-sectional shape than cross-sectional shapes of the convex portions.

18. (Currently Amended) A connecting device for use with an elongate material, the connecting device comprising housing members for housing [[a]] the long material and a connecting tool for connecting said housing members, characterized in that wherein the housing member has a base and a cover which are assembled to each other, the base and
5 the cover each have convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing member, said connecting tool forms an approximately cylindrical shape, connecting ports are provided at both ends in an axial direction of the connecting tool, one end of said housing member is connected to each of the connecting ports, and the connecting tool has a connecting base body and a

10 connecting cover body which are separable to divide said connecting port into two and
capable of being assembled to each other; and
displacement preventing means, ~~which connects~~ for connecting both the base and
the connecting base body by vertically overlaying the base and the connecting base body
on each another, and ~~prevents~~ preventing the base and the connecting base body
15 connected to each other from being displaced vertically, ~~[[is]]~~ provided between said base
and connecting base body.

19. (Currently Amended) A connecting tool for connecting housing members for housing an
elongate material, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the housing member has a base and a
cover which are assembled to each other, the base and the cover each have convex
portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing
5 member, said connecting tool ~~forms~~ comprising an approximately cylindrical shape,
connecting ports ~~[[are]]~~ provided at both ends in an axial direction of the connecting tool,
with one end of said housing member ~~[[is]]~~ being connected to each of the connecting
ports, and the connecting tool ~~[[has]]~~ having a connecting base body and a connecting
cover body which are separable to divide said connecting port into two and capable of
10 being assembled to each other; and

said connecting base body comprises displacement preventing means ~~which~~
~~connects~~ for connecting both the base and the connecting base body by overlaying the
base on the connecting base body, and ~~prevents~~ preventing the base and the connecting
base body as connected to each other from being displaced vertically.

20. (Currently Amended) The connecting tool according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said displacement preventing means includes a convex line provided at an inner
surface of said connecting base body to extend along an axis line of the connecting base

body so as to engage with a step portion provided at an outer surface in the vicinity of an opening of said base.

21. (Currently Amended) The connecting tool according to claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in sectional view along a surface perpendicular to the axis line of said connecting base body, said connecting base body forms an approximately U-shape, and has said convex lines at both end portions thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The connecting tool according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 19 [[to 21]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a locking convex line which is locked at the convex portion of said housing member is provided on the inner surface of said connecting base body to extend in the direction perpendicular to the axis line of the connecting base body.

23. (Currently Amended) The connecting tool according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 19 [[to 21]], ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said connecting base body and connecting cover body are connected by a hinge to be relatively rotatable.

24. (Currently Amended) A placement structure for a cylindrical housing member having flexibility for housing an elongate material, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said housing member has annular convex portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing member, said placement structure ~~comprises~~ comprising racks and rail bodies laid on said racks, and said housing member is fixed to the rail body to extend along said rail body.

25. (Currently Amended) The placement structure according to claim 24, ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a fixing tool for fixing said housing member to said rail body.

26. (Currently Amended) The placement structure according to claim 24 [[or 25]],
~~characterized in that~~ wherein said housing member comprises a vertically separable base
and cover, and said base is fixed on said rail body.

27. (Currently Amended) The placement structure according to ~~any one of claim[[s]]~~ 24 [[to
26]], ~~characterized by~~ further comprising a connecting tool for connecting both the
adjacent rail bodies, and characterized in that the connecting tool is fixed to said rack.

28. (Currently Amended) A fixing tool for fixing a housing member, which has flexibility
and includes a space for housing an elongate material inside, to a rail body laid on a rack,
the fixing tool ~~is characterized by having~~ comprising:
a held portion which is held at said rail body; and

5 a fixing portion facing an upper surface of the rail body to be able to fix said
housing member to said rail body in a state in which said held portion is held at said rail
body.

29. (Currently Amended) A fixing tool for fixing a housing member for housing an elongate
material at a placement section, said housing member having a base and a cover which
are assembled to each other, and the base and the cover respectively having convex
portions arranged at predetermined pitches along a longitudinal direction of the housing
5 member, said fixing tool ~~is characterized by having~~ comprising:

 a body portion fitted into a concave portion provided between both adjacent
convex portions of said base;

 a locking portion locked at a portion of said base, which does not interfere with
mounting and dismounting of said cover to and from the base on an occasion of mounting

10 and dismounting of said cover to and from the base to prevent said base from rising with respect to said placement section; and

 a fixing portion fixed to said placement section.

30. (Currently Amended) The fixing tool according to claim 29, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein:

 said body portion comprises:

 fitting portions respectively fitted into a plurality of concave portions of said base;

5 and

 an insertion hole in which at least one of the convex portions of said base is able to be inserted.

31. (Currently Amended) The fixing tool according to claim 29 [[or 30]], ~~characterized in that~~
~~that~~ wherein said locking portion is locked at a portion in said base, which is covered with said cover.

32. (Currently Amended) The fixing tool according to claim 31, ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said locking portion is locked at said base so as to cover end edge portions at both sides of said base.